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## Secretary Lyng Visits Van Ness Elementary School

Secretary Richard Lyng joined observers across the nation to salute National School Lunch Week and the 40th anniversary of the National School Lunch Program.



Flanked by students of Van Ness Elementary School, Secretary Lyng intently listens to remarks about the school lunch program delivered by 6th grader Shanetta Washington.

Students of Van Ness Elementary School in Washington, D.C. were delighted to have the Secretary of Agriculture as their special lunch guest.

The Secretary was treated to a noon meal featuring chili and remarks by 6th grader Shanetta Washington who read excerpts from the National School Lunch Week Proclamation signed by President Reagan.

Since the program's beginning, more than 115 billion lunches have been served to the nation's children. School Lunch--America's Number One Energy Source.



Enjoying lunch with Secretary Lyng are (left) Shanetta Washington, and 8-year-old Maria Montivera.

## F&N Magazine Off Press

"Celebrating 40 Years of School Lunch" is the theme of the October issue of FOOD AND NUTRITION magazine.

The issue highlights the work of several school lunch directors, whose programs illustrate the diversity, creativity, and professionalism that characterize school lunch in the 1980's.

The issue includes features on school lunch programs in Cobb County, Georgia; Meridian, Idaho; Phoenix, Arizona; Hampton, New Hampshire; Ortonville, Minnesota; Huntington, New York; and Kansas City, Missouri.

Two companion articles take a look at how the nutrient standard menu project has helped participating school districts plan meals. Two others show how test kitchens and cooperative buying arrangements are helping schools get the best products for the best price.



## Local Level Food Stamp Supervisors Take Part in FNS Evaluation

Fourteen food stamp supervisors from across the U.S. met in the national office on September 23-25 to evaluate program management improvement materials that FNS provides to state and local food stamp staff.

The supervisors, selected by the regional offices, brought with them a wealth of information and experience and represented a mix of urban and rural food stamp offices. As a group they have an average length of service of 10 years with three having 17 years experience with the Food Stamp Program.

The participants critiqued Operation Awareness technical assistance materials which describe successful techniques to reduce errors made in determining benefits under the Food Stamp Program. More importantly,

however, the supervisors provided useful recommendations for targeting technical assistance materials to the local level.

Both Administrator Robert Leard and Deputy Administrator for Family Nutrition Programs John Stokes addressed the workshop participants. Stokes told the supervisors, "We welcome this opportunity for you to share with us your perspective of how the Food Stamp Program operates. We at the national office want to know what problems you experience so we can react to them."

The workshop, coordinated by staff of the Program Accountability Division, Family Nutrition Programs, is part of FNS's effort to tighten management in the Federal Food Stamp Program.



Administrator Robert Leard (far left) told the workshop attendees, "By bringing you, the frontline supervisors together, we hope to get specific comments on how to improve and better target our materials to local level food stamp workers."

## On the Hill



The 99th Congress adjourned on October 18. Below are the FY 1987 funding provisions of the Continuing Resolution, P.L. 99-500, which affect the Food and Nutrition Service:

### Child Nutrition Programs

School Lunch Program (section 4)	\$ 557,092,000
Special assistance (section 11)	2,355,993,000
School Breakfast Program	436,423,000
State Administrative Expenses	51,217,000
Summer Food Service Program	132,748,000
Child Care Food Program	541,733,000
Commodity procurement	150,941,000
Nutrition studies and surveys	2,470,000
Nutrition Education and Training	5,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,233,617,000</b>

### Other FNS Programs

Special Milk Program	14,869,000
WIC	1,663,497,000
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	41,497,000
Food Stamp Program	12,684,665,000
Cash and commodities for selected groups	193,589,000
TEFAP	50,000,000
Food Program Administration	82,578,000
Human Nutrition Information Service	6,876,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,737,571,000</b>

Child Nutrition Programs Total	4,233,617,000
Other FNS Programs Total	<u>14,737,571,000</u>
<b>Total FNS Appropriations</b>	<b>\$18,971,188,000</b>

- Frank Ippolito

## High School Student Makes WHO'S WHO

For the second consecutive year, Kara Freeman, daughter of Mary Freeman, Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Division, will receive honorary award recognition by having her biography published in WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS for her achievements during her senior year. WHO'S WHO is the largest publication in the nation for recognizing the academic and extra curricula achievements of student leaders from America's finest public, private, and parochial high schools. Since only 6 percent of our nation's high school students are recognized in WHO'S WHO each year, Kara's award is significant because only one-half of 1 percent of these students are honored for two consecutive years.

Kara is currently a freshman at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she is majoring in computer science.

## Safety Belt Use By Federal Employees

The President has issued an Executive Order mandating the use of safety belts by Federal employees. Each year, thousands of lives could be saved and injuries prevented if motorists would use their safety belts. The estimated annual cost to Federal, state, and local governments as a result of automobile accidents is \$11 billion. The President has determined that an on-the-job safety belt use policy for Federal employees will reduce human pain and suffering, set an example for the private sector, and reduce the burden on the taxpayers caused by motor vehicle accidents.

It is ordered that each Federal employee occupying the front seat of a motor vehicle on official business, whose seat is equipped with a safety belt, shall have the safety belt properly fastened at all times when the vehicle is in motion.



## 1987 Combined Federal Campaign

All FNS Employees

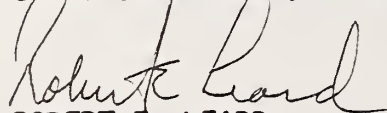
The 1987 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will officially begin on October 21, 1986, at the Department of Agriculture. The CFC offers you a direct channel for helping the truly less fortunate. Your contributions through the CFC provide services to the millions of Americans who suffer the ravages of illness and disease. Your CFC dollars "make dreams come true".

Through the Combined Federal Campaign, you can be sure that help can be there when it is needed--help for young people seeking direction in their lives, help for disabled, help for troubled families, help for all of us in time of need.

Agencies supported by the CFC not only help the poor, they also serve people from all parts of society. One out of three of your neighbors in the national capital area received help last year.

It is good to know when you give a dollar that the dollar is well-spent. The cost of the CFC is very small - only four cents of every dollar goes for campaign expenses. The rest goes to strengthening family life, rehabilitation of the handicapped, and assistance to children, the elderly, the ill.

Please join me this year in support of the efforts of the Combined Federal Campaign. Through a payroll deduction we can "make a dream come true".



ROBERT E. LEARD  
Administrator

# Combined 1987 Federal Campaign



## Brantley and Baldwin Receive USDA Management Award

Larry Brantley, newly appointed Director, Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Division, and Gwendolyn Baldwin, Chief, Civil Rights Branch, received the USDA Administrative Management Award for their work in streamlining the agency's Civil Rights Complaint System in collaboration with the Department's Office of Advocacy and Enterprise (OAE). The USDA award was established in 1984 to recognize individuals or groups who have brought about significant improvements in administrative management at the agency, departmental or government-wide levels.



Standing with Larry Brantley (second from left) and Gwen Baldwin is Assistant Secretary for Administration John J. Franke, Jr., who presented the recipients with the Administrative Management Award.

In streamlining the complaint system, Larry and Gwen developed new complaint procedures which were agreed upon by OAE in a memorandum of understanding. As a result, the agency has improved the timeliness of responses to complainants, improved the quality and timeliness of reports, and improved the use of limited resources (travel funds and personnel).

As of the end of August, FNS had received 364 FY 1986 complaints with a carryover of 197 FY 1985 complaints. Of these 561 complaints, 478 have been closed leaving 83 open complaints on hand. For the first time in 3 years, FNS has a manageable complaint caseload.

Larry said he sees this as an award to a large group of FNS employees who are involved in processing discrimination complaints. "My own staff of specialists receive a lot of credit for shifting gears and serving as a focal point for communication with complainants." He also said, "the Civil Rights Directors in each regional office deserve a great amount of credit for developing case facts about each complaint and getting the inquiry work done with short turnaround. The field offices have done a great job conducting onsite inquiries. And the secretarial staff throughout the agency did a magnificent job in getting the necessary typing done. It has been a team effort in FNS."

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## Federal Employees Retirement System Booklet

On January 1, 1987, the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will go into effect. All employees hired after December 31, 1983, are automatically covered by FERS. Other Federal employees not covered by FERS have the option to transfer into FERS.

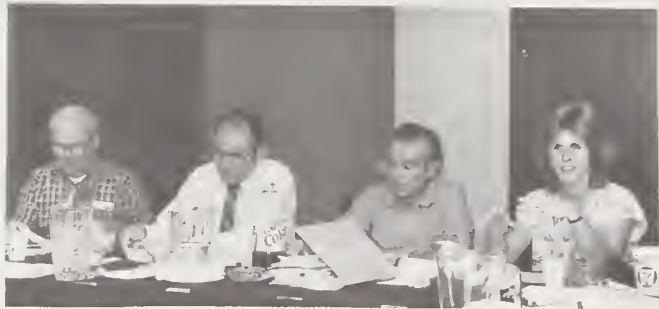
To assist employees in understanding the new system, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has prepared a 24-page booklet that contains basic information on: (1) social security benefits; (2) basic benefits; and (3) the thrift-savings plan. Each permanent full-time and part-time employee will receive a personal copy of the brochure in about 2 weeks.

For employees currently covered by Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), OPM will provide a detailed booklet in early 1987 that will compare FERS and CSRS. The Social Security Administration will also provide information, upon request, to employees with social security benefits.



## Food Stamp Directors Hold Successful Meeting

For three days in September, the seven regional directors of the Family Nutrition Programs (FNP) met with Headquarters staff in Alexandria, Virginia. The participants felt it was one of the best program directors meetings ever held. They discussed such timely FNP issues as FY 1987 SPAM plans, quality control, income eligibility and verification system implementation, and retailer/wholesaler activities. In addition, a significant amount of time was spent working on program direction, priorities, and opportunities for improvement.



Lynda Silva, NERO (far right), explains regional concerns to the participants. Also seated at the table are (left to right) Ed Davidson, SERO; Duane Maddox, Program Accountability Division; and Peter Santos, MARO.

Administrator Robert Leard spoke to the group and laid out his priorities of the program for the coming months. John Stokes, the newly appointed Deputy Administrator for Family Nutrition Programs said, "I appreciated the information I received from the group, especially the frank discussion of some of the difficulties the regions have implementing policies that come from Headquarters."

Assistant Deputy Administrator for Family Nutrition Programs Chris Martin declared the meeting a success, saying "the participation was excellent. We covered a significant number of major issues and initiatives confronting the Food Stamp Program and dealt with them in an exhaustive fashion. The input received from the directors was substantive and well-founded." Stokes said with a smile, "I felt so good about the meeting, we may even do it again."



Claire Lipsman, Director, Program Accountability Division (far left), discusses new program policy. With Claire are (left to right) Marilyn Carpenter, Program Accountability Division; Ronnie Rhodes, SWRO; Bonny O'Neil, Director, Program Planning Development and Support Division (PPDSD); and (in foreground) Bruce Clutter, PPDSD.





## Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of August with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>August 1985</u>	<u>July 1986</u>	<u>August 1986</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	19.4	19.1	19.2
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.) .....	867.7	867.2	869.7
Average bonus per person .....	\$ 44.81	\$ 45.45	\$ 45.37
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	948.8	957.3	959.9
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.) .....	24.6	27.1	25.0
Number of meals served in homes (mil.) .....	21.7	23.2	22.5
Percentage of all meals served free .....	76.7	76.5	76.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	33.0	36.8	35.0
<u>Summer Food Service Program:</u>			
Number of meals served (mil.) .....	21.1	43.0	21.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	30.4	66.2	32.4
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.) .....	3.3	3.3	3.3
Food cost (\$ mil.) .....	103.5	106.7	107.0
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	129.1	136.1	130.9
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program:</u>			
People participating (thous.) .....	140.6	136.5	133.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	2.5	2.3	2.0
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation .....	104	106	106
People participating (thous.) .....	145.9	153.2	152.3
Total program cost (\$ mil.) .....	4.3	4.1	4.1

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of October 23, 1986.

Note: No data are provided for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the summer months.

Food and Nutrition Service  
Program Information Division

## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Area of Consid.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Vacancy Number</u>	<u>Organi- zational Unit</u>
Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	PED
Secretary Typing (REANNOUNCED)	(G)	GS-318	5	11-4-86	86-40	PID
Secretary Typing (EXTENDED)	(L)	GS-318	5	11-10-86	86-45	FNP

PED ~ Personnel Division

PID ~ Program Information Division

FNP ~ Family Nutrition Programs

#### Area of Consideration:

(FNS)- FNS Headquarters

(G) ~ Government-Wide

(A) ~ All Sources

(L) ~ Local Commuting Area